



For Release: Thursday, November 12, 2020

20-2122-SAN

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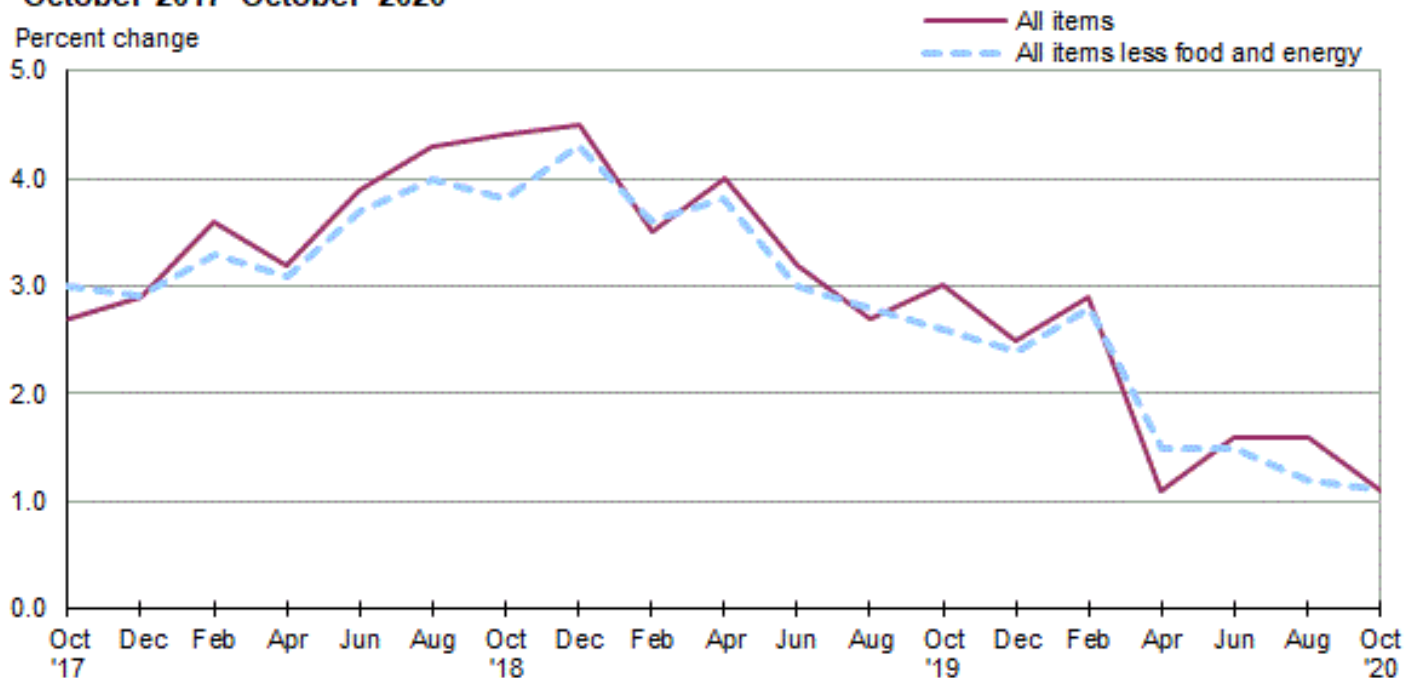
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — October 2020

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past two months, up 1.1 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.5 percent for the two months ending in October 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the October increase was influenced by higher prices for recreation and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.1 percent over the year. Food prices rose 5.2 percent. Energy prices decreased 9.7 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, October 2017–October 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.8 percent for the two months ending in October. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 0.8 percent largely due to price advances in cereals and bakery products (9.8 percent). Prices for food away from home increased 0.8 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices moved up 5.2 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 6.6 percent since a year ago led by meat, poultry, fish, and eggs prices (14.4 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 3.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index inched down 0.1 percent for the two months ending in October. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for electricity (-1.6 percent). Prices for gasoline edged down 0.1 percent, but prices for natural gas service advanced 6.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 9.7 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-21.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 13.1 percent, and prices for electricity increased 5.9 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.5 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for recreation (6.6 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by a price decrease for motor vehicle insurance (-6.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included recreation (6.4 percent) and shelter (2.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-13.6 percent) and medical care (-0.4 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.9	3.0	0.8	3.4	1.4	3.6	0.5	3.5	0.9	2.9
April	0.7	2.7	1.1	3.8	0.8	3.2	1.2	4.0	-0.5	1.1
June	0.6	2.7	0.3	3.5	0.9	3.9	0.2	3.2	0.7	1.6
August	0.7	3.1	0.2	3.0	0.6	4.3	0.1	2.7	0.0	1.6
October	0.9	3.6	0.6	2.7	0.7	4.4	1.0	3.0	0.5	1.1
December	-0.3	3.5	-0.1	2.9	0.1	4.5	-0.5	2.5		

The December 2020 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco area is scheduled to be released on January 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on October 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in October was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 94 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo Counties in the State of California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	300.182	-	301.736	1.1	0.5	-
All items (1967=100)	922.844	-	927.620	-	-	-
Food and beverages	304.761	-	306.640	4.8	0.6	-
Food	304.224	-	306.683	5.2	0.8	-
Food at home	271.580	273.755	273.855	6.6	0.8	0.0
Cereals and bakery products	271.309	-	297.907	12.5	9.8	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	294.156	-	291.640	14.4	-0.9	-
Dairy and related products	282.821	-	286.002	4.4	1.1	-
Fruits and vegetables	359.733	-	370.335	6.6	2.9	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	213.055	-	197.425	-3.4	-7.3	-
Other food at home	223.071	-	222.887	1.9	-0.1	-
Food away from home	341.262	-	343.914	3.8	0.8	-
Alcoholic beverages	314.740	-	309.500	-0.7	-1.7	-
Housing	359.510	-	360.365	2.7	0.2	-
Shelter	408.494	406.632	409.262	2.1	0.2	0.6
Rent of primary residence(2)	465.713	466.182	468.725	2.3	0.6	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	435.842	436.403	439.287	2.3	0.8	0.7
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	435.842	436.403	439.287	2.3	0.8	0.7
Fuels and utilities	453.492	-	454.677	6.1	0.3	-
Household energy	395.961	402.093	395.792	6.5	0.0	-1.6
Energy services(2)	397.817	404.094	397.431	6.7	-0.1	-1.6
Electricity(2)	425.164	425.164	418.345	5.9	-1.6	-1.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	331.825	358.196	351.688	13.1	6.0	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations	147.205	-	148.320	5.7	0.8	-
Apparel	98.388	-	97.508	-13.6	-0.9	-
Transportation	199.573	-	199.173	-8.0	-0.2	-
Private transportation	196.605	-	195.173	-7.0	-0.7	-
New and used motor vehicles(4)	93.619	-	93.468	-2.6	-0.2	-
New vehicles(1)	158.123	-	156.445	-2.5	-1.1	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	268.469	-	276.003	10.5	2.8	-
Motor fuel	236.785	239.082	236.633	-21.2	-0.1	-1.0
Gasoline (all types)	235.957	238.243	235.820	-21.3	-0.1	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	235.174	237.492	235.004	-21.7	-0.1	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	222.488	225.809	223.775	-19.6	0.6	-0.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	226.534	228.406	226.343	-19.7	-0.1	-0.9
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	543.610	-	510.364	-3.9	-6.1	-
Medical care	548.733	-	549.432	-0.4	0.1	-
Recreation(6)	117.921	-	125.741	6.4	6.6	-
Education and communication(6)	150.404	-	150.807	0.4	0.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,831.860	-	1,813.998	-1.0	-1.0	-
Other goods and services	508.703	-	516.488	1.9	1.5	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	300.182	-	301.736	1.1	0.5	-
Commodities	194.856	-	195.480	-0.7	0.3	-
Commodities less food & beverages	136.952	-	136.971	-5.9	0.0	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	176.771	-	176.727	-9.8	0.0	-
Durables	97.518	-	97.579	0.1	0.1	-
Services	387.835	-	390.133	1.9	0.6	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	290.006	-	291.583	1.2	0.5	-
All items less shelter.....	255.085	-	257.109	0.3	0.8	-
Commodities less food	144.452	-	144.291	-5.4	-0.1	-
Nondurables	242.403	-	243.351	-0.9	0.4	-
Nondurables less food.....	187.477	-	187.047	-8.5	-0.2	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	378.324	-	383.125	1.5	1.3	-
Services less medical care services.....	376.920	-	379.150	1.9	0.6	-
Energy	301.597	305.435	301.437	-9.7	-0.1	-1.3
All items less energy	303.749	-	305.402	1.7	0.5	-
All items less food and energy	304.510	-	306.041	1.1	0.5	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.